

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 106841

R 011700Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2381

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8716

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN, SK

SUBJECT: SIKKIM

REF: NEW DELHI 8673

SUMMARY: THE CHOGYAL HAS LEFT DELHI FOR SIKKIM--APPARENTLY WITH NO SATISFACTION FROM HIS TALKS WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE ALL TOLD HIM TO ACCEPT THE NEW CONSITUTION. HE GAVE NO CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT HE WILL DO NEXT. THE CHOGYAL PUT OUT A PRESS RELEASE THAT IS PRETTY HARSH ON THE GOI AND INDIAN PRESS HANDLING OF THE "NEW CONSITITUTION." REQUEST WASHINGTON LET US KNOW IF IT NEEDS THIS MUCH REPORTING ON SIKKIM. END SUMMARY

1. THE CHOGYAL MET WITH MRS. GANDHI TWICE OVER THE WEEKEND. GOI BACKGROUNDERS INDICATE THAT HE WAS TOLD BOTH TIMES TO GO HOME AND ACCEPT THE NEW CONSITITUTION--AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD ALREADY TOLD HIM. THE CHOGYAL LEFT DELHI FOR SIKKIM JULY 1 GIVING NO CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT HE WOULD DO ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION.

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2. ACCRODING TO AN INDIAN CORRESPONDENT WHO KNOWS SIKKIM AND THE CHOGYAL WELL, THERE ARE TWO POINTS ON WHICH THE CHOGYAL HELD OUT IN HIS TALKS IN DELHI. HE WANTS A PUBLIC ASSURANCE BY THE GOI THAT THE INTEGRITY AND SEPARATE IDENTITY OF SIKKIM WILL BE PRESERVED. HE ALSO WANTS IT ESTABLISHED THAT WITH REGARD TO SIKKIM'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS THE CHOGYAL CAN BE OVERRULED BY THE GOI BUT NOT BY THE SIKKIM ASSEMBLY. THE CHOGYAL TOLD MRS. GANDHI HE MIGHT RESIGN, WHICH HE APPARENTLY IS CONVINCED SHE DOES NOT WANT HIM TO DO. THE CORRESPONDENT BELIEVED MRS. GANDHI MADE NO COMMITMENTS ASIDE FROM OFFERING TO HAVE FON MIN SWARAN SINGH VISIT SIKKIM FOR TALKS WITH THE CHOGYAL AFTER SWARAN SINGH RETURNS FROM HIS CURRENT TRIP ABROAD.

3. INDICATIVE OF THE CHOGYAL'S ANNOYANCE WITH THE INDIANS IS THE ACIDITY OF A PRESS RELEASE HE PUT OUT ON SATURDAY. IT SAYS THE CHOGYAL HAD ASKED THE INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISOR FOR A REASONABLE TIME TO STUDY A DRAFT BILL WHICH SHOULD, HE SUGGESTED, BE REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIKKIMESE PEOPLE, THE GOI, AND HIMSELF--BEFORE ITS INTRODUCTION IN THE ASSEMBLY. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE CHOGYAL WAS ASKED TO VISIT DELHI JUNE 12-15, WAS HANDED ON ARRIVAL " RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSITUTIONAL ADVISER" IN THE FORM OF A GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM BILL 1974, AND THEN WAS TOLD BY TOP MEA OFFICIALS THAT THIS WAS THE FINAL DRAFT. THE BILL, ACCORDING TO THE CHOGYAL, WAS DEFICIENT, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO FINANCIAL MATTERS, AND VESTED REAL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWER IN THE (INDIAN) CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE REFORM.

4. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PRESS RELEASE ARE LETTERS THE CHOGYAL RECEIVED FROM THE INDIAN POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, SHANKAR BAJPAI. THESE SHOW BAJPAI TELLING THE CHOGYAL JUNE 20 THAT IF HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY HE COULD INFORM THE GOI AND THE ASSEMBLY OF CHANGES HE DESIRED AND THE GOI WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER. ON JUNE 23, HOWEVER, AFTER THE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE BILL, BAJPAI TOLD THE CHOGYAL "IT HAS NOW BECOME NECESSARY FOR YOU TO GIVE YOUR ASSENT." WE WERE TOLD THAT EVEN THE INDIAN CORRESPONDENTS FELT THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY THE GOI ON THIS PLOY--AND THEY WERE GIVEN NO EXPLANATION WHEN THEY ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION ON BACKGROUND EXCEPT THAT THE "SITUATION CHANGED" IN THE INTERVENING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREE DAYS. THE CHOGYAL HAS CHARGED THE INDIAN PRESS WITH ONESIDED REPORTING AND UNRESTRAINED ATTACKS ON HIS PERSON.

5. COMMENT: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH PLAY THE SIKKIM STORY IS GETTING IN THE US. AP CORRESPONDENT BALKIND TOLD US OVER THE WEEKEND HE IS GETTING DAILY REQUESTS FOR UPDATES. WE HAVE ASSUMED YOU WOULD LIKE CLOSE AND CONTINUED REPORTING IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH ANY QUESTIONS FROM PRESS OR CONGRESS. LET US KNOW

IF WE SHOULD SLOW DOWN OR IF OUR CURRENT REPORTING LEVEL IS USEFUL
TO YOU.
SCHNEDIER

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Message Attributes

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